

## PORTLAND FREIGHT COMMITTEE NOTES

### Meeting No. 234

WHEN: Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 @ 7:30 AM

WHERE: Virtual Zoom Meeting



Please click this URL to join:

<https://zoom.us/j/97499103224?pwd=Y3RxeGJpTEZYREcvVIFGeStZL1hndz09>

Password: 101442

#### Time:

7:30 AM

#### Topic:

**Welcome and Zoom Meeting Protocol:  
Minutes approved.**

#### Lead:

**Gabriela Giron**

**Jana Jarvis / All**

#### **7:35 AM Hot Topics, Points of Interest:**

- **Sorin Garber:** Can PBOT/ODOT talk to why we're not doing well with grants, particularly highway projects. PBOT and Port are generally successful, but IBR, Rose Quarter, Coos Bay and other state/regional projects have not been very successful.
  - o **Gabriela G. (PBOT):** PBOT has not heard back about our Burgard Bridge and a rail crossing planning grant for Albina but will provide an update when we do.
  - o **Jana Jarvis:** There was money (approx. \$400 million) dedicated to the Rose Quarter in HB2017, but then costs increased. Opposition to freeway widening and political climate shifted, and that money was redirected to other projects. The State must be able to demonstrate how we will cover the required local match. IBR was not included in HB2017; Washington State has committed to funding a portion of the bridge, but Oregon has not. There is a lack of a common vision when it comes to highway projects.
  - o **Corky C.:** Industry/stakeholders might need to strategize more about how to approach grant opportunities. Sounds like we aren't doing that right now.
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- **Tom Bouillon (Port of Portland):** Port will apply for a grant to fund two post-Panama container cranes to support Terminal 6 operations. The grant application is due April 26. We will seek PFC's support and will bring the request to the committee at the April meeting.
- **Tim Collins (Metro):** The Regional Freight Delay and Commodities Movement Study Stakeholder meeting went well. We're set to turn the findings into recommendations and share them with our project management team and stakeholder group.

- **Jana Jarvis:** The motorcycle community has reintroduced a bill to allow people driving motorcycles to split lanes. It's a very concerning prospect, particularly around large trucks.
  - o **Marie Dodds:** AAA Oregon/Idaho is testifying against this bill for safety reasons.

**7:50 AM      Portland Economic Opportunity Analysis      Steve Kountz (BPS)**  
**Update**

- Update covers two core issues for EOA update:
  - o Job growth trends & tight supply of industrial land in context of accelerating industrial demand.
  - o Economic equity trends and job growth have not supported economic equity goals and acknowledging industrial jobs have a role in meeting those goals.
- Steve Kountz noted that Chip manufacturing is different than most manufacturing. Two-thirds of jobs in electronic manufacturing require a bachelor's degree. Economic equity advantages come from more traditional distribution and warehousing fields.
- [See presentation for details.](#)

**Comments, Questions & Answers**

- **Q:** Is it possible to tell if jobs have been leaving the city for the suburbs in Oregon or if they're leaving the state?
  - o **A:** It is unclear whether jobs are moving to Vancouver/Clark County or staying in Oregon. (MSA data includes several Washington and Oregon counties.)
- **Q** (Sorin G.): How will these findings be disseminated? How widely distributed is this info?
  - o **A:** Information is on the EOA update website. We will share this presentation with committee members and other participants. Also, I will be presenting to the Planning Commission (formerly Planning and Sustainability Commission).

**8:30 AM      Regional Transportation Plan Update      Eric Hesse (PBOT)**

- [See presentation for details.](#)

**Question & Answer/Comments**

- **Q** (Sorin G.): Timeline (slide 10) mentions a "Metro system analysis." What is that? Is Portland's list of proposed projects at risk?

- **A:** Metro takes the totality of projects proposed from across the region to assess how they address regional goals (equitable transportation, climate action, and resilience, thriving economy, safe system, mobility options). How local jurisdictions respond to that feedback could impact the list, but no specific outcome or action is required. Portland/PBOT does take Metro's feedback seriously.
- **Comment** (Corky C.): I would recommend prioritizing the NE 60th Ave overcrossing from Tier 2 to Tier 1.
- **Q** (Tom B.): There was a project about widening Columbia Blvd in previous RTPs. Where is that project?
  - **A:** That project has been in the RTP for a while, but in the last TSP update, PBOT reexamined this project. Widening is very expensive and bridges over the road would have to be modified/rebuilt, requiring a lot of property acquisition, and mainly wiping out existing development/businesses along the road. And then the road could just fill up again with traffic undermining the benefit of the investment. Thus, the project was replaced with a two-phase project to 1) study solutions and 2) design/construction.
- **Comment:** I suggest taking a more regional approach to freight rail investments rather than a city approach.
  - **A:** A regional rail plan is a regional need, and thus not something PBOT would be the lead on. In the past, Port/Metro have been the ones leading those initiatives. The city has addressed crossings in the Central Eastside and the double tracking of the Kenton Line. 2040Freight includes two studies related to these areas.
  - **C** (Bill B.): Union Pacific has gone ahead with a major expansion of tracking along the Kenton line around NE 11th. Make sure to discuss futures changes to the Kenton Line with UP.
  - **C** (Tim C.): A Regional Rail Study is next in line for Metro after finalizing the Regional Freight Delay and Commodities Movement Study.
  - **C** (Tom B.): The Port of Portland [2012 Rail plan](#) was the last regional plan.

**8:55 AM      2040Freight Public Review Draft Release Update**

**Gabriela Giron & Sean Doyle (PBOT)**

- Public Review draft will be released next week (week beginning 3/6) and be open for feedback for at least a month. A public survey will be released at the same time.

- See *presentation* for additional details about the major elements of the plan.

#### **9:25 AM      Public Comment**

- Michelle Sprague: There was a walk-through of the Union Pacific rail corridor in the Central East side organized by the SE Portland Railroad Action Group. During the tour, the possible escape route around SE 11th -12th Aves was discussed. Concerns about the narrowness of this escape route were raised during the tour. Is there a way for PBOT evaluate turning radius for large freight vehicles in this route?"

#### **9:30 AM      Adjourn**

*\*Meeting ended early, around 9:20am\**

Questions about this agenda or other questions about the Portland Freight Committee please contact:

- Gabriela Giron Valderrama, [Gabriela.GironValderrama@PortlandOregon.gov](mailto:Gabriela.GironValderrama@PortlandOregon.gov)
- Also, visit the Portland Freight Committee website at:  
<https://www.portland.gov/transportation/freight-committee>